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NPIC/TSG-129-70

7 DEC 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Photographic  
Interpretation Center

SUBJECT : Request for Approval of a Contract with  
[redacted] to Develop a PI Print-  
out Station for [redacted] from FY 1971  
R&D Funds

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1. This memorandum requests approval for the commitment of R&D funds for an NPIC contract. The specific request is stated in paragraph 9.

2. There is a current photo interpretation requirement for equipment to produce quality photo reproductions right at the PI's work station using available "work copy" in film positive form. This capability will enable the interpreter to make varying "density cuts" of imagery to enhance the interpretability of certain features and to produce individual stereo pairs for his historical reference file without cutting sections of the film from which he is working. In the past, this requirement has been partially filled by a diazo (ammonia processed) system, which was developed about five years ago. Wear and aging of the previously developed equipment, combined with the inherent problems created by ammonia leakage--with resulting toxicity and corrosion problems, have resulted in the gradual retirement of these printer/processor stations although the user requirement still exists. This requirement will be accentuated by newer acquisition systems which produce greater volumes of film while at the same time providing fewer copies of the materials for exploitation.

3. The experimental materials and printing and processing techniques developed by the [redacted] under NPIC funding have recently undergone experimental evaluation by operational personnel in the Center. The results from that evaluation have provided significant inputs for the configuration of the proposed PI Print-out Station. This development is designed to optimize the exposure light source as well as printing and processing techniques for the heat processed films.

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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[ ] to Develop a PI Print-out Station for  
[ ] from FY 1971 R&D Funds

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4. Under the proposed contract, [ ] will modify a government furnished CBS-RIPPS (Rapid Interpretation Printer Processor) Table for use with [ ] Thermo-Tone Diazo film. This includes stripping the table of its present ammonia developer system, exposure light source, exposure platen pressure system, and control panel. These items will be replaced with a compact heat developer, a collimated light source, an inflated air bag pressure system, and a new control panel. This combination will provide a capability to produce uniform reproduction prints at an average resolution of 200 line pairs per millimeter, or greater, from USAF 1951 High Contrast negative targets.

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5. The [ ] has proposed a seven-month schedule for delivery of the finished equipment which will use the new heat processed photo reproduction films developed under our research contract. The risks here are not concerned with technical feasibility but with how well the system can be optimized to provide the photo interpreter with the highest quality reproduction with the greatest ease of operation at his work station. Hence, the technical risks are considered to be low.

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6. NPIC will furnish a [ ] ammonia Rapid Interpretation Printer Processor as GFE for the basis of this development. At the present stage of development, the heat processed materials and processing equipment are still unique [ ]. Therefore, sole source procurement is essential.

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7. No immediate follow-on effort is presently planned for the PI Print-out Station (PIPS). However, it is expected that after successful operational testing PI Print-out Stations will be placed throughout the Center to help in relieving film copy shortage problems.

8. The overall security classification of this contract will be CONFIDENTIAL. The association is CONFIDENTIAL, and the title and work are UNCLASSIFIED.

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[redacted] to Develop a PI Print-out Station for  
from FY 1971 R&D Funds

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9. It is requested that approval be granted to negotiate a contract with the [redacted] at a cost not to exceed [redacted] from Category V FY 1971 R&D funds.

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[redacted]  
Chief, Technical Services Group  
NPIC

Attachments:

1. Proposal
2. Form 2420

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL  
Director,

National Photographic Interpretation Center

6 JAN 1971 25X1

Date

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NPIC/TSG/RED/SDB [redacted]

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